

Filed for intro on 06/11/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 550

By Goins

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Mary Michelle Gillum for
laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those
citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as public
servants of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, One such noteworthy person is Mary Michelle Gillum, a Campbell county
native, who has been awarded the National Association for Public Interest Law's prestigious
Fellowship for Equal Justice Award; and

WHEREAS, The award will provide salary, student loan forgiveness and training to
support Ms. Gillum's work with a public interest law firm for two years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gillum is a third-year student at the University of Tennessee College of
Law; this award will fund her work with Rural Legal Services of Tennessee (RLST) in Oak
Ridge, a worthy organization dedicated to providing free civil legal services to low-income
families in 19 counties in East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gillum, who holds a degree in accounting, will direct RLST's Tennessee
Taxpayers Project to assist low-income families with income tax issues; and

WHEREAS, She has served astutely as an intern with RLST, and her survey of dental care for children was instrumental in effecting significant improvements for families with TennCare; and

WHEREAS, In announcing the award, RLST Director Neil McBride said, "Ms. Gillum will be a tremendous asset to our firm.... Her understanding of our clients, her experience in accounting and law, and her personal commitment have already brought significant benefits to low-income families throughout this area"; and

WHEREAS, Mary Gillum grew up in Campbell County, where her father was a coal miner; her parents, Mary and Michael Gillum, formerly of LaFollette, currently reside in Randolph, Alabama, where her father works with Jim Walters Coal Company; and

WHEREAS, A 1990 graduate of Campbell County High School, Mary Gillum maintained 13 years of perfect attendance during her school career; and

WHEREAS, She later graduated with Honors from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, receiving an Accounting degree; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from college, Ms. Gillum taught work readiness and adult basic education classes in Campbell County to help women prepare for work under the Families First program; and

WHEREAS, As a student at the University of Tennessee College of Law, Ms. Gillum received the school's William Leech Public Service Award in 1999 for her public interest work; she was one of two recipients of the school's Kolwyck Fellowship, which supported her work with RLST during her third year of law school; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gillum served with distinction as the Co-Chair of the law school's Tennessee Association for Public Interest Law, and she directed a Volunteer Income tax Assistance project that established VITA sites throughout East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mary Gillum epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and her stalwart commitment to East Tennessee's low-income families is indeed commendable; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gillum is most grateful for the love and companionship she shares with her husband, David Goins of LaFollette, who serves as President of Goins Masonry Construction Company; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Ms. Gillum for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its low-income families and low-wage workers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mary Michelle Gillum for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee in the arena of public interest law, congratulate her upon her much deserved receipt of the National Association for Public Interest Law's prestigious Fellowship for Equal Justice Award, and extend to her our best wishes for every success with the Tennessee Taxpayers Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.